IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) A method of sterilizing an object, said method comprising the step of:

exposing an object to a vapor composite which is rapidly expanded within a sterilizing chamber wherein expanding and condensing the vapor composite takes place within several tenths of a second such that the vapor composite cools to below the hydrogen peroxide dew point and condenses on all accessible surfaces of the object, said sterilizing chamber having component parts which come into contact with a condensation layer, said component parts being configured from a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, glass or a closed-pore ceramic material.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

evacuating the sterilization chamber using a vacuum pump;

providing the vapor composite to the sterilization chamber to form the condensation layer;

removing the condensation layer; and

ventilating the sterilization chamber.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of evacuating the sterilization chamber further comprises the step of isolating the sterilization chamber from the vacuum pump with a valve.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said vapor composite comprises water and hydrogen peroxide.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of removing the condensation layer further comprises evacuating the sterilization chamber.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of evacuating the sterilization chamber is conducted at a pressure of from 10 mb to 1 mb.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of evacuating the sterilization chamber is conducted at a pressure of approximately 1 mb.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said step of removing the condensation layer is performed after a predetermined reaction time.